

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-28 are pending in the present response. Claims 1, 20, 25, 27, and 28 are amended by the present response. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5, and 12-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Endo (U.S. Patent No. 6,801,340) in view of Mori (U.S. Patent No. 6,965,453) and Grosse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,294, herein Grosse); Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Endo in view of Mori and Grosse; and Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Endo in view Mori and Ohara (U.S. Patent No. 7,072,060).

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, and 12-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Endo in view of Mori and Grosse, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in light of the amendments to Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

wherein the image data is transferred via the data communications bus between the memory and the control unit a first time before conversions performed on the image data by the at least two of the conversion units and a second time after the conversions are completed by the at least two of the conversion units.

Endo describes converting document data into plural formats corresponding to respective destinations and transferring the plurality of converted documents to the respective destination. However, Endo does not describe “the image data is transferred . . . after the conversions are completed by the at least two of the conversion units,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Further, amended Claim 1 recites that “the image data is transferred via the data communications bus between the memory and the control unit,” without being returned to the

document input unit as described in Endo.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the above-noted features of Claim 1 distinguish over Endo.

Mori describes performing an expansion in color conversion on image data to produce a single image. However, the resulting image after the color conversion performed by the converter is not “transferred via the data communications bus between the memory and the control unit,” as is recited in amended Claim 1 but is supplied from the converter to the print engine.<sup>2</sup> Thus, the above-noted features of amended Claim 1 distinguish over Mori.

With regard to the Grosse reference cited in the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 12-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), it appears that Grosse was cited in error as Grosse was not applied in the rejection of these claims. Nevertheless, Grosse does not cure the defects of Endo or Mori as it does not describe that “the image data is transferred via the data communications bus between the memory and the control unit a first time before conversions performed on the image data by at least two of the conversion units,” as is recited by amended Claim 1.

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and any claims dependent therefrom) patentably distinguish over Endo, Mori, and Grosse. Claims 20, 25, and 27 recite elements analogous to those of Claim 1. Thus, amended Claims 20, 25, and 27 patentably distinguish over Endo, Mori and Grosse, for at least the reasons noted above with regard to Claim 1. Moreover, the further cited Ohara reference does not cure the deficiencies of Endo, Mori and Grosse with regard to the claimed invention.

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<sup>1</sup> See Endo Fig. 3.

<sup>2</sup> See Mori Fig. 1.

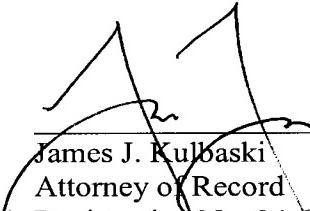
Consequently, in light of the above discussion the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

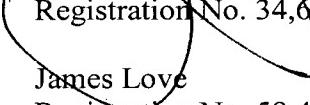
Respectfully submitted,

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